

Application No.: 09/761,514  
Amendment dated: May 5, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of August 5, 2004  
Attorney Docket No.: 1064.US

b.) Remarks

Claims 1-48 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 8, and 29 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove.

Turning now to the merits, claims 1-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dudel *et al.* Also claims 1-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Verdiell (US 6,207,950). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

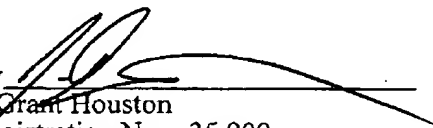
Relative to claim 1, neither reference shows nor suggests the claimed sequence including alignment by mechanically engaging and moving the mounting structures.

Relative to claims 7 and 8, neither reference suggests characterizing an optical property or focal length and then using the information in alignment.

Finally, the method of claim 29 is new relative to the applied references because it includes characterizing positions of optical elements on mounting structures of optical components prior to installing the optical components on optical benches by reference to light that is transmitted through the optical elements;

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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